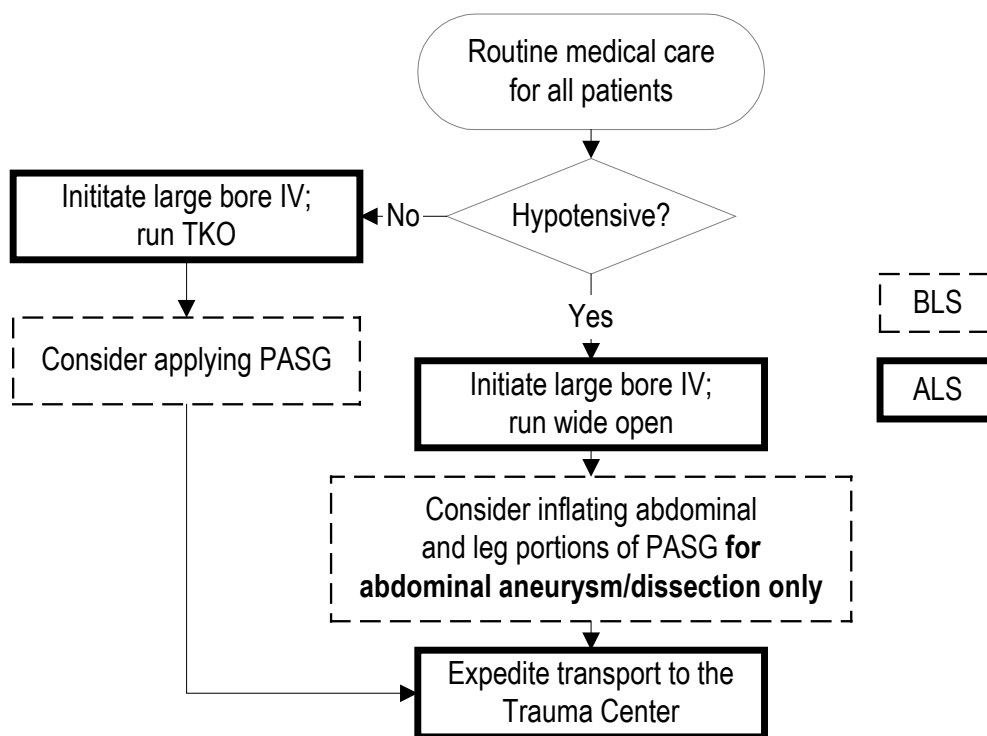


Initiated: 3/7/00
Reviewed/revised: 5/12/04
Revision: 2

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS  
MEDICAL PROTOCOL  
AORTIC RUPTURE/DISSECTION**

Approved by: Ronald Pirrallo, MD, MHSA
Signature:
Page 1 of 1

<b>History:</b>	<b>Signs/Symptoms:</b>	<b>Working Assessment:</b>
History of hypertension History of arteriosclerosis Elderly male	Abdominal or back pain Pulsating mass in abdomen "Ripping", "tearing", "sharp" pain Unequal pulses in left and right pedal pulse points Hyper- or hypotension	Abdominal aortic aneurysm/ dissection
	Chest pain "Ripping", "tearing", "sharp" pain Distended neck veins (JVD) Unequal pulses in left and right radial pulse points Narrow pulse pressure Different blood pressures in left and right arms Hyper- or hypotension	Thoracic aortic aneurysm/ dissection



**NOTES:**

- PASG is contraindicated in thoracic aneurysm/dissection.
- Rapid transport is mandatory for all suspected aortic aneurysms and dissections. These patients may need immediate surgery.
- Aortic aneurysms occur most often in elderly males with a history of hypertension and/or arteriosclerosis.
- Thoracic aortic aneurysms may have signs and symptoms of stroke or myocardial infarction.